

Independent claim 12 expressly recites a power supply controller that includes “a current input circuit coupled to receive a current representative of an input voltage applied to a power supply, the current input circuit to generate a maximum duty cycle adjustment signal in response thereto; and a control circuit to generate a switching waveform, the control circuit coupled to receive the maximum duty cycle adjustment signal, the control circuit to limit the duty cycle of the switching waveform to a maximum value in response to the maximum duty cycle adjustment signal, the switching waveform to regulate the power supply output.”

Accordingly, the presently claimed invention expressly recites a maximum duty cycle adjustment signal generated by a current input circuit and a switching waveform generated by a control circuit. A duty cycle of the switching waveform is limited by the control circuit to a maximum value in response to the maximum duty cycle adjustment signal, which is generated by the current input circuit in response to a received current representative of an input voltage applied to a power supply.

Faulk is directed to a variable frequency variable input voltage power converter with a minimum frequency limit. As disclosed in the Abstract, Faulk discloses that the switching *frequency* is dependent on the input voltage (for input voltages in one range). Faulk fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest that the *duty cycle* of a switching waveform is limited to a maximum value *in response to a maximum duty cycle adjustment signal*, which is generated by a current input circuit *in response to a received current representative of an input voltage* of the power supply, as expressly claimed in the Applicants' invention.

The Applicants note that Faulk describes a START-UP WAVEFORM with a duty cycle that gradually increases over time during start-up. (*See, e.g.*, col. 22, lines 34-35). However, Faulk fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest that a maximum value to which the duty cycle of the start-up waveform is limited is responsive to a maximum duty cycle adjustment signal that is responsive to a received current representative of an input voltage of the power supply.

Rather, Faulk discloses that the maximum duty cycle of the start-up waveform is determined by the input setting PW. (Column 11, lines 42-43). As explained in column 22, lines 38-42, the on-time of START-UP WAVEFORM during startup is equal to the time for PW to ramp upward from V_{PWL} to SS. Moreover, as stated in lines 51-54 of column 22, “eventually, SS reaches it’s steady state value, REF. When this occurs, START-UP WAVEFORM reaches its maximum duty cycle which thereafter remains constant.” Accordingly, the maximum duty cycle is constant after SS equals REF, instead of responsive to a current representative of the input voltage. As described in column 11, lines 37-41, SS is an input governing a soft start feature of slave controller 142 and REF is an internally generated reference voltage. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 7 of Faulk, PW is determined with the RC circuit including resistor 246 and capacitor 257 coupled to reference voltage REF. Similarly, SS is determined with the RC circuit including resistor 244 and capacitor 234 coupled to reference voltage REF. Faulk fails to disclose, teach or suggest that REF, PW and/or SS are responsive to a current representative of an input voltage of the power supply. Therefore, Faulk fails to anticipate the Applicants’ presently claimed invention as expressly recited.

Independent claim 59 recites a method of controlling a power supply including “receiving a first current representative of an input voltage to the power supply through a first terminal of a power supply controller,” “switching a second current flowing through the primary winding with a switching waveform having a duty cycle,” and “adjusting the duty cycle of the switching waveform in response to the first current.” As summarized in detail above, Faulk fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest adjusting a duty cycle of a switching waveform in response to a current representative of an input voltage to a power supply, as described and expressly claimed in the Applicant’s invention.

Therefore, since at least one or more expressly recited elements of independent claims 12 and 59 are not disclosed, taught or fairly suggested by Faulk, the Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by Faulk. Remaining claims 13-18 and 60-63 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their respective independent base claims in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the instant section 102 rejections be withdrawn and that the presently claimed invention is in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

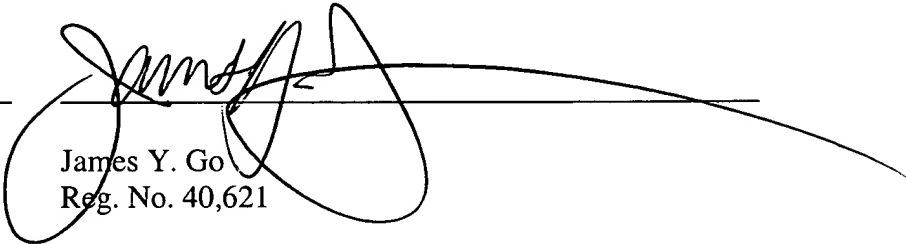
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Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 7-11-01


James Y. Go
Reg. No. 40,621

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